

REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 13, 15-16, 18-21 and 23-28 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Claims 19 and 20 are currently withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner.

Claims 13, 15-16, 18, 21 and 23-28 were examined.

Claims 13, 15-16, and 24-25 were rejected.

Claims 21, 23 and 26-28 were allowed.

Claim 18 was objected to.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

No new matter has been added.

The Office Action

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) (Jackson in view Woodward et al.)

In the Official Action of April 15, 2010, claims 13, 15-16 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson, U.S. Patent No. 4,623,335 in view of Woodward et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,550,747. The Examiner asserted, inter alia, that Jackson discloses a housing 24, 26, 40, 22, 44, 64 comprising a cylindrical inelastic housing enclosing the inner volume as claimed. The Examiner asserted that Applicants had not structurally defined the housing to preclude elements 64 from forming a part of the housing.

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 13 above to recite a cylindrical, inelastic housing enclosing an inner volume, the cylindrical housing having a first and second end at first and second ends of a cylinder forming said cylindrical housing. It is respectfully submitted that claim 13, as amended structurally defines the cylindrical housing to preclude the Examiner's interpretation as reading on 24, 26, 40 and 22, as those components do not form a cylindrical, inelastic housing.

The Examiner further asserted that it would have been obvious to modify the spring system of Jackson to use a user set computer controlled pressure relief valve as taught by Woodward et al, for

more accuracy.

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 13 to recite that the threshold features are manually selected by a user.

In the Advisory Action of June 18, 2010, the Examiner asserted that Woodworth et al. discloses that the user controls the force and thus threshold pressure by user input into a computer controlled pressure relief valve. In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 13 above to clarify that manual selection is performed by the user manually contacting said apparatus to perform manual selection. It is respectfully submitted that neither of the cited references discloses, teaches or suggests this feature.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 13, 15-16 and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson, U.S. Patent No. 4,623,335 in view of Woodworth et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,550,747, as being inappropriate.

Allowance of Claims 21, 23 and 26-28

Applicants wish to extend their thanks to the Examiner for the allowance of claims 21, 23 and 26-28.

Objection to Claim 18

Applicants wish to extend their thanks to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 18. It is respectfully submitted that claim 18 is allowable for at least the same reasons provided above with regard to claim 13, since claim 18 depends from claim 13.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2653, order number GUID-134.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 9, 2010

By: /Alan W. Cannon/
Alan W. Cannon
Registration No. 34,977

Law Office of Alan W. Cannon
942 Mesa Oak Court
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
Telephone: (408) 736-3554
Facsimile: (408) 736-3564